

APPROVED

**THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
MINUTES
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2004**

The Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") meeting was convened at 9:20 a.m. on Friday, February 20, 2004 at the Department of Health Professions, 6603 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. Sharon Ekleberry, Chair, called the meeting to order.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sharon C. Ekleberry
George Offerman
Nandini N. Assar
Valerie Carter-Williams
Anne Keast
Fredrick D. Weston

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Howard Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Benjamin Foster, Deputy Executive Director
Arnice N. Covington, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Debra Riggs and Grace Turner, National
Association of Social Workers

ORDERING OF AGENDA

Ms. Ekleberry opened the floor to any changes in the agenda order. The agenda was accepted as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Ekleberry opened the floor to comment from the public. There was none.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 31, 2003 MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Weston and properly seconded to accept the minutes of October 31, 2003. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Chair's Report – Sharon Ekleberry

Ms. Ekleberry reported on her recent trip to the ASWB meeting in Colorado.

Discussion followed regarding the Association of Social Work Boards New Board Member Training and the Chair approved the attendance of Nandini Assar and Valerie Carter-Williams. The training will be offered three times this spring and summer.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Brown advised that she had a Consent Order to be reviewed with the Board. Mr. Weston moved that the Board convene in Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 2.2.3711(A)(28) of the *Code of Virginia* for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of the Consent Order signed by Robin Woods, LCSW. The Consent Order accepts the surrender of Ms. Woods' license in lieu of further proceedings and Orders that Ms. Woods' right to renew her license as a clinical social worker in the Commonwealth of Virginia, be INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED. At such time that Ms. Woods petitions for the reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding shall be convened to receive evidence satisfactory to the Board that she is able to resume the safe and competent practice of social work.

Following discussion Ms. Carter-Williams read the certification of the Closed Meeting. "All those who certify, to the best of your knowledge, that the Board heard, discussed or considered only those public matters lawfully exempted from Open Meeting requirements by Virginia law and those matters as were identified in the motion for the Closed Meeting, say "Aye." All Board members said, "Aye."

A motion was made by Ms. Carter-Williams and properly seconded to accept the Consent Order. The motion carried.

Ms. Brown discussed HB 577 Health Professionals; disciplinary proceedings and reporting requirements.

The bill adds an immunity provision for any licensee who reports regarding the conduct or competency of a health care practitioner as required by law or regulation or provides information pursuant to an investigation or testifying in a judicial or administrative proceeding as a result of such report, unless the person acted in bad faith or with malicious intent.

Ms. Brown advised the Board that the Newsletter would be complete as soon as the Disciplinary proceeding that will take place February 20, 2004 is added to the Disciplinary Section. The Board decided not to hold the Newsletter for further

disciplinary information and articles from Board Counsel, Howard Casway. The Board will use the articles in the next newsletter.

Discipline Committee – Sharon Ekleberry

Sharon Ekleberry reported that the Discipline Committee had held four informal conferences since the October 31, 2003 Board meeting.

Regulatory Committee – Benjamin Foster

Mr. Foster reported that the Regulatory Committee met on January 12, 2004 to discuss the possibility of allowing bachelors level candidates for the licensed social worker examination to sit for the exam in the final semester, senior year, of the undergraduate degree program in social work. The Board was furnished with information regarding the requirements of other state boards. Ms. Riggs and Ms. Turner commented in support of candidates who are in the final semester of their degree(s) being allowed to take examinations prior to completion of supervision requirements. Following discussion, the Board referred the issue back to the Regulatory Committee for further study. The Committee will meet before the next board meeting and make a recommendation to the Board on May 14, 2004.

The Committee also discussed “misdemeanors involving moral turpitude,” and determined that the wording would remain as is in 18 VAC 140-20-160.1 of the Board’s Regulations.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Foster provided the Board with a Draft Audit Plan for Continuing Education Consent Orders for non-compliance with continuing education requirements. Following discussion it was determined that the Continuing Education Committee, Valerie Carter-Williams and George Offerman, would review any questionable continuing education documentation presented by licensees. The Board gave Mr. Foster authorization to go forward with the audit.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Sharon Ekleberry, Chair

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director